

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS

and the Appendant Orders of
MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND GOOD CHEER

COMMITTEE

R.E. SIR GEORGE A. WEEKS, *Chairman*

E. SIR GEORGE W. COOK

E. SIR HERBERT Y. FOLLETT

E. SIR GEORGE E. SAFFORD

E. SIR F. WAYLAND PRESTON

Boston, Mass., April 1, 1949 A.O. 831

OFFICIAL ORDER No. 3

SERIES 1948-1949

TO THE EMINENT COMMANDERS, OFFICERS AND SIR KNIGHTS OF THE CONSTITUENT

COMMANDERIES OF THIS GRAND JURISDICTION

GREETINGS:

The following summary of the contributions of the various Commanderies for the Christmas Offering and Good Cheer is very gratifying and shows that the Sir Knights in our Grand Jurisdiction are willing and anxious to lend a helping hand to their less fortunate brethren.

The contributions for our last Christmas reached a total of \$7,253.27 which is the largest amount ever contributed since the beginning of this activity in 1931.

The following extracts are taken from the reports sent to the headquarters of this Grand Commandery:

ST. JOHNS No. 1—I had fifteen cases that I had to take care of. Two of them I found to be bad off and of course I gave them more, and am having them looked after. To tell you the truth, I believe I am the first Commander to go around and see them. Most others sent it through the mail. All of them were most pleased and happy that I took the time to see them. I feel that the Commander should be made to see those in want. Seeing someone means so much more and makes things so much brighter.

H. RAYMOND BALL, *Commander*.

BOSTON No. 2—Gifts to known needy cases, widows etc. We took care of a number of children who otherwise would have had no Christmas.

ALFRED C. BLAKE, *Commander*.

NEWBURYPORT No. 3—Assistance was given to eight families by money and baskets. Expression of appreciation indicated that our efforts brought much happiness and comfort.

LAURENCE B. CHENEY, *Commander*.

WASHINGTON No. 4—This was one of the greatest pleasures that I have ever experienced. This is certainly a worthwhile event that should be continued with even greater emphasis. Money to six families and baskets to seven.

KARL E. FALKENHOLM, *Commander*.

WORCESTER COUNTY No. 5—Gifts of cash, grocery baskets to needy families, cash to widows of Masons and cash to needy Masons.

C. LEONARD SHAW, *Commander*.

SPRINGFIELD No. 6—Gifts to eight needy families (42 children) widows and aged relatives of Masons, members of the Masonic Fraternity sick or in need, and Masonic Children's Party in Westfield, balance for future charitable use. Several letters of appreciation, mostly from older people and widows of Sir Knights and Masons. Some mentioned the generosity of the Knights Templars to their friends and they in turn mentioned it to the Commandery.

J. WILLIAM BENNETT, *Commander*.

DE MOLAY No. 7—Money gifts to needy members and flowers to sick members and widows. The most appreciated activity in the whole Commandery year.

ALTON L. MILLER, *Commander*.

HOLY SEPULCHRE No. 8—To the needy widows of Sir Knights gifts of money, and to sick members in the hospital and at home baskets of fruit and flowers were distributed. Cards of thanks have been received.

OSCAR W. HULTGREN, *Commander*.

PILGRIM No. 9—Baskets of fruit, groceries, flowers, cigars and cigarettes, also donations of money to our old members and shut-ins, who appreciated being remembered. Officers and members were well pleased with the contributions and the work done.

ARISTON K. BARROWS, *Commander*.

PALESTINE No. 10—Flowers were sent to the families of Sir Knights who passed on to their reward during 1948, and the remainder of the Fund was distributed among large needy families. It was indeed a pleasant privilege to the Commander of Palestine Commandery to bring a little Christmas Cheer to some of the less fortunate families in our community.

GEORGE P. LEGROW, *Commander*.

MILFORD No. 11—Flowers sent to widows of members and baskets with small money contributions to a few worthy cases. EDWARD S. HOLBROOK, *Commander*.

ST. BERNARD No. 12—Gifts to shut-ins and to the Grand Master for the Masonic Homes \$169.50. Visited all widows, telephoned all sick members and held Christmas Observance in our Armory.

HENRY E. STROUT, *Commander*.

CALVARY No. 13—Christmas baskets distributed to members and widows.

IRVING W. CARPENTER, *Commander*.

HAVERHILL No. 14—A good part of this collection was used to brighten the lives of many of our less fortunate Sir Knights both by money, food and fuel. We have several Sir Knights, who are really dependent upon us and the responses I have received from our donations has been very pleasing, and it is very gratifying to know how much they appreciated our offering.

LEONARD A. TILTON, *Commander*.

OLD COLONY No. 15—Divided between widows of Sir Knights and a Sir Knight. All were very appreciative and expressed their thanks.

ELLIOTT D. THOMPSON, *Commander*.

SUTTON No. 16—Flowers, fruit and cash gifts. Personal thanks and letters of appreciation received expressing gratitude for the attention shown to the ill and needy Sir Knights.

WENDELL M. HARDY, *Commander*.

BETHANY No. 17—There was not too much suffering for food this year. We did take care of one family with seven children. The others were elderly people whom we remember each year. Flowers were sent to recent widows. Fruit to our members and friends who were confined to their homes.

THOMAS R. HADFIELD, *Commander*.

WINSLOW LEWIS No. 18—We found one Sir Knight who will need continued assistance in expenses in a rest home. One Sir Knight at home will also receive assistance. One boy at the Carpenter Street Home desired a Boy Scout Uniform and we gave it to him. Gifts of clothing and flowers to ill Sir Knights.

HAROLD P. SILLARS, *Commander*.

JERUSALEM No. 19—Letters from three Sir Knights living out of town expressing their deep appreciation for our remembrances. All those assisted locally, were grateful for the gifts. In several cases the need was exceptionally great, and thanks received was so deeply felt and conveyed that the task of distributing the gifts was an honor and a real worthwhile service.

FRANK M. COLE, *Commander*.

HUGH DE PAYENS No. 20—Plants to the shut-ins, baskets of fruit and Christmas dinner, donations made to general charity. Very favorably received. This is the largest Christmas contribution received in Hugh de Payens Commandery in many years.

EDWARD NORRIS, *Commander*.

ST. OMER No. 21—Gifts of money and Xmas baskets were distributed among members of St. Omer Commandery, among needy families in the Parish Church of St. Matthew and the Redeemer (Episcopal). The responses of gratitude for these gifts has made it a pleasure to carry out the minor details involved. It is one of the fond memories that I will cherish in my Masonic career that the Sir Knights of St. Omer Commandery has made it possible to do this work.

MERLE D. RIDER, *Commander*.

BERKSHIRE No. 22—To the recipients of charitable gifts there was a very appreciative feeling on their part and ours. To one aged Sir Knight in a Rest Home, suffering from a lapse of memory, we see that he gets clothing from time to time. Balance of amount collected, but not used at Christmas, will be used during the year for charitable purposes.

D. CLARENCE GAGE, *Commander*.

CONNECTICUT VALLEY No. 23—Gifts of money to four needy Sir Knights. The responses to the Christmas Offering was excellent and exceeded past years. Sir Knights aided were most appreciative and grateful. Balance is held for worthy and needy Sirs as the occasion arises.

WINSLOW C. WENTWORTH, *Commander*.

WOONSOCKET No. 24—Baskets of fruit and cigars sent to worthy Sir Knights. Letters of appreciation received from all.

CARLTON H. ARNDOL, *Commander*.

GODFREY DE BOUILLON No. 25—Twenty-five dollars was given to a family who has two crippled children and gifts of money to Sir Knights. The parents of the children were greatly touched by the gift and expressed their sincere thanks to us. The Sir Knight also expressed his appreciation.

GEORGE E. GRAY, *Commander*.

JOSEPH WARREN No. 26—Checks to needy members and widows of late members in need. The grateful acknowledgment received from the recipients should more than compensate the loyal members who so generously responded with contributions to help those less fortunate at this particular time of year.

ROLAND W. GOLDEN, *Commander*.

NARRAGANSETT No. 27—Eight baskets to shut-ins of the Commandery and one dinner to a non member family. All gifts gratefully received.

ELMER R. SHERMAN, *Commander*.

BRISTOL No. 29—Gifts of Christmas baskets and flowers. All gifts were gratefully received.

FRANK PICKERING, *Commander*.

NORTHAMPTON No. 30—Annual Christmas Dinner, Christmas Party and gifts for children under the care of the Children's Aid Association of Hampshire County. Each year the enthusiasm and appreciation of all concerned exceeds the previous year and this was no exception. GORDON W. HARLOW, *Commander*.

SOUTH SHORE No. 31—Flowers to widows of departed Sir Knights. Baskets, cash and smoking material to Sir Knights of our Commandery. Cooperated with the other Masonic Bodies in our Temple to give the children a Christmas Party. Letters and calls received. The general trend of remarks being that they were pleased to be remembered by the Commandery. BASIL S. WARREN, *Commander*.

TRINITY No. 32—Baskets of fruit to three widows of Past Commanders and gifts of money to three other widows. All recipients extremely pleased to think that the Commandery had thought of them and remembered their late husbands. OTHMAN C. PLOSS, *Commander*.

NATICK No. 33—Christmas dinners, baskets of fruit and plants distributed, unused balance held for future charity cases. The opportunity of spreading a bit of cheer was most gratifying. Most recipients had Masonic affiliations, and each one was most appreciative. Found that more time was required than I anticipated, several fraternal visits being made where no gifts were needed, but I feel highly repaid for the effort. Regret that each contributor cannot see and know the full value of this good work.

G. FOREST PENNIMAN, *Commander*.

COEUR DE LION No. 34—Food, clothing and money to many needy families, and flowers to the shut-ins. Assistance and consideration was gratefully received.

WILLIS H. DOE, *Commander*.

GETHSEMANE No. 35—Clothing and food distributed to widow and family of a deceased Sir Knight. Christmas Cheer packages sent to shut-ins. All gifts gratefully received.

JOHN S. NAYLOR, *Commander*.

OLIVET COMMANDERY No. 36—Christmas dinners, baskets of fruit and flowers distributed. Best collection that we have had for several years.

CLAY ROSS MARTIN, *Commander*.

ATHOL No. 37—We sent fruit baskets to all our Sir Knights that are shut-ins also to those that have attained the age of 65 and over. Received thanks for the gifts that made these Sir Knights feel that the life was worthwhile. ELLSWORTH I. GRAVES, *Commander*.

BAY STATE No. 38—Checks to the needy, baskets of fruit and flowers to the shut-ins. Have received many letters of appreciation and I feel that this is a very worthwhile activity.

RESSIE E. BOWSER, *Commander*.

CYPRUS No. 39—Christmas cards with money enclosed sent to aged and needy Sir Knights also one widow of a Sir Knight. We received grateful appreciation responses with expression of thanks.

ARCHIBALD S. HICKS, *Commander*.

ST. PAUL No. 40—Money gifts to worthy Sir Knights in need due to illness. Very much appreciated, also calls made by four Past Commanders.

HERBERT J. MAUSERT, *Commander*.

BEAUSEANT No. 41—Good Cheer for members, checks mailed to five worthy families and baskets of food. All appreciated the thoughtfulness of the Commandery and expressed their thanks by letters.

GEORGE S. KENISON, *Commander*.

CAMBRIDGE No. 42—Christmas Cheer Offering placed in General Charity Fund.

SARGENT S. STEARNS, *Commander*.

BETHLEHEM No. 43—On Christmas Day a very needy family was discovered nearly destitute and in short order Christmas in that home was much brighter. Widows of recently departed Sir Knights were visited and presented flowers. Sir Knights who are shut-ins, blind and infirmed were visited and remembered with suitable gifts. WILLIAM P. C. SMITH, *Commander*.

ORANGE No. 45—Three aged Sir Knights were presented with gifts of money. Letters of appreciation received. W. CLIFFORD FURBUSH, *Commander*.

IVANHOE No. 46—Money sent to six Sir Knights and Brother Masons, flowers and cigarettes to shut-in Sir Knights. I, personally enjoyed bringing the cheer to these Sir Knights, and all appreciated the thoughtfulness of the Commandery.

GORDON J. KELLEY, *Commander*.

QUINCY No. 47—Assistance, good-will and good cheer was extended to over thirty families. After taking care of our own members, I contacted twelve ministers and obtained from them names of worthy families, and after investigation distributed cash donations in the form of Quincy Commandery checks made payable to each needy family. Letters of appreciation received from all. CECIL C. MARBLE, *Commander*.

TEMPLE No. 48—Cash, shoes, rubbers, flowers to about twelve persons. All gratefully appreciated.

JOHN CULLEN, *Commander*.

ST. ANDREW No. 49—A distribution of plants, flowers, fruit, cigars and tobacco made to deserving Sir Knights. All pleased with Christmas Cheer from their Commandery. JOSEPH H. BURGEN, *Commander*.

READING No. 50—Gifts of cash, baskets of fruit, Christmas dinner, plants, and balance in Charity Fund. Cash donations were sent to shut-ins and widows also plants to widows. All were gratefully received.

WILLIAM T. FREEMAN, *Commander*.

THOMAS SMITH WEBB No. 51—Cash donations to one Past Commander and also to children of a former Sir Knight. Gifts to widows and shut-ins. Food baskets to family without father. This made Christmas very happy for me even though considerable time was taken in distributing these gifts.

RICHARDS A. F. BALLOU, *Commander*.

SIR GALAHAD No. 52—Gifts of cash and flowers to eleven recipients. It was the most successful Xmas Fund we have had in years.

ALEXANDER MARTIN, *Commander*.

WINTHROP No. 53—Donations of cash were made to several needy families of Sir Knights and were most gratefully received. It is a grand and glorious feeling that comes to one having the privilege of personally meeting the recipients and watching the reaction. FRANCIS E. HOMER, *Commander*.

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

1931	.....	\$5,768.24
1932	.....	4,973.75
1933	.....	4,436.65
1934	.....	4,946.82
1935	.....	4,088.37
1936	.....	4,915.34
1937	.....	4,798.81
1938	.....	4,608.07
1939	.....	4,386.23
1940	.....	4,610.99
1941	.....	4,588.35
1942	.....	4,217.04
1943	.....	4,715.01
1944	.....	5,732.60
1945	.....	6,033.19
1946	.....	6,699.20
1947	.....	6,820.59
1948	.....	7,253.27

Total \$93,592.52

It is my order that this communication be read at the next Conclave following its receipt and spread upon the records.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Grand Commandery this 20th day of March, 1949, A.O. 831.

Courteously yours,

A. KENNETH MARTIN,
Grand Commander.



ATTEST:

GEORGE A. WEEKS,
Grand Recorder.